

**PASQUOTANK COUNTY, NORTH CAROLINA  
FEBRUARY 21, 2018**

The Pasquotank County Board of Commissioners met today in a special meeting with the Soil and Water Conservation District Supervisors and staff on Wednesday, February 21, 2018 at 12:00 Noon at the Pineapple Café.

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Cecil Perry, Chairman  
Dr. William R. Sterritt, Vice Chairman  
Jeff Dixon  
Joseph S. Winslow, Jr.  
Frankie Meads  
Charles H. Jordan

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** Lloyd E. Griffin, III

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Rodney Bunch, County Manager  
R. Michael Cox, County Attorney  
Lynn Scott, Clerk to the Board  
Sheri Small, Finance Officer  
Steve Harris, Pasquotank SWCD Chairman  
Maurice Berry, Pasquotank SWCD Supervisor  
Doug Temple, Pasquotank SWCD Supervisor  
Chuck Jackson, Pasquotank SWCD Supervisor  
Dwane Hinson, Pasquotank SWCD Technician  
Mark Powell, Program & Project Management Consultant,  
Albemarle RC&D  
Rodney Johnson, Albemarle RC&D  
Dianne Watts, Pasquotank SWCD District Administrator

Mr. Harris, Pasquotank Soil & Water Conservation District (SWCD) Chairman, welcomed everyone. He gave the invocation and lunch was served. He stated that Mark Powell and Dwane Hinson have done a lot of projects together such as the Little River Project and they would like to share some information with the Board today. He recognized retiring County Manager Bunch and thanked him for his many years of service and for guiding him for many years. He said he has been very good to work with over the years and he appreciates everything he has done for Soil & Water and for the County.

Following lunch, SWCD Technician Dwane Hinson updated the Board on projects going on in the county. He said they are utilizing the \$25,000 the County set aside as seed money to assist with watershed issues. They are starting construction of a community flooding project in Newland to hopefully resolve the issues they are having. He thanked the Board for their support.

Mr. Hinson stated that they have spent approximately \$300,000 in Pasquotank County over the past year on clearing debris, as a result of Hurricanes Matthew and Isabell with funds that were allocated through the state. He said they have talked to people throughout our communities to try to figure out where the most needed places are. He said he would like to show the Board what they are evaluating and why they are doing some things in case the public has questions for them. He explained drainage rates, navigation and flooding potentials, and water quality issues.

Mr. Hinson said they will probably be coming to the Board sometime in the near future asking for support on some water quality issues in the county. He stated that they are trying to get a buffer set up along the creeks to cut down on those issues. He said they need the Board to formally recognize the conservation areas and provide tax incentives.

Mr. Powell said the council works with ten counties, so they are promoting a regional approach to water quality in order to have an impact on it. He stated the council has been working closely with all the counties and with the Soil & Water Conservation Districts, Local Governments, and State Legislators to bring money into the region for stream debris removal and repairs and so far they have brought in approximately \$2,600,000 for the ten counties.

Mr. Powell reported that one of the big issues we face regionally is alligator weed, which clogs drainage ways. He said they have encouraged counties to budget funds for spraying. In order to get rid of it, you must spray it three consecutive years, followed by periodic maintenance. He noted that we have been fighting alga blooms on the Little River, Albemarle Sound, and Chowan River. He said the council worked with the Albemarle Commission to get a grant from the Clean Water Management Trust Fund to study this and try to figure out what is driving the blooms. With the help of NCDEQ, they found a significant increase in organic nitrogen on the Chowan River from the Virginia border all the way down to the Chowan River Bridge. In addition, they have seen a significant increase (3-4 degrees) in mean annual temperature on the Chowan River over the last 30 years.

Mr. Powell said they would like to put in additional water quality monitoring stations on key waterways to see if they can identify what the sources of the organic nitrogen are and where it is coming from. He explained that he has mapped all of the swamp floors that have been impacted in some form over the last twenty years. What they see is about 30% of the swamp floors in the Potecasi Creek Watershed have been impacted. They are not sure if that is the source of the organic nitrogen or not so they would like to put in more water monitoring stations. He added that they would like to do the same thing on the Chowan River and Edenton Bay.

Mr. Powell noted that there was a significant alga bloom on Little River this year near Dance's Bay. The water quality monitoring station on old US 17, at the bridge shows that phosphorus has been increasing there since 1977. During the past couple years they have installed a couple instream wetland projects. One of the projects is a 4,800' wetland on Steve Harris' property in Pasquotank County and another one is a 2,000' wetland on Wade Boyce's property in Perquimans County. He said they will be starting a new one in a few months next to the solar farm in Pasquotank County. He explained that the wetlands put a filtering mechanism on all the cropland to pull out some of the nutrients, such as nitrogen and phosphorus.

Mr. Harris reported that Diane Watts, Administrative Assistant, is retiring the end of May and they would like to request the position be funded as a full-time position. He praised her work and said she is one of the best in the state. Maurice Berry reiterated that Ms. Watts' position will require a full time person. He thanked the Board for their consideration.

Mr. Harris said he would like the County to discuss things that can be done to educate the public and provide public awareness on drainage problems in Pasquotank County. He said a lot of people that move to our area don't know what a ditch is. He suggested providing brochures to new residents.

Chairman Perry thanked the Soil & Water Conservation supervisors and staff for their update and for the lunch that was provided. The meeting was adjourned at 12:25 PM.

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CHAIRMAN

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CLERK TO THE BOARD